

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Docket No. 14235US02)**

In The Application Of:

Ronald L. Mahany et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

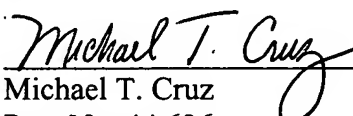
Examiner: Toan D. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 2665

For: HIERARCHICAL  
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) Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 15,  
) 2003

)   
) Michael T. Cruz  
) Reg. No. 44,636

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for a concurrently filed application (i.e., Docket No. 14235US02) which is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/129,448 filed August 4, 1998. Please amend the above-identified application as follows.